



POTASSIUM

UN 2257

Shipping Name: Potassium

Other Names: K



WARNING! • DO NOT USE WATER! REACTS VIOLENTLY TO FORM HIGHLY FLAMMABLE AND EXPLOSIVE HYDROGEN GAS!
• MAY IGNITE SPONTANEOUSLY IN AIR!
• DO NOT USE CARBON DIOXIDE OR HALOGENATED EXTINGUISHING AGENTS - FORMS EXPLOSIVE MIXTURES!

Hazards:

- Skin and eye contact causes severe burns and blindness
- Highly flammable
- Fumes from burning material are extremely irritating to skin, eyes, nose and lungs
- Container may explode when exposed to fire

Awareness and Operational Level Training

Response:

- Do not put yourself in danger by entering a contaminated area to rescue a victim
- Stay upwind
- Determine the extent of the problem
- BACK OFF! - Isolate a wide area around the release or fire, deny entry and call for expert help
- Remove all ignition sources
- For container exposed to fire evacuate the area in all directions because of the risk of explosion
- Evacuate the immediate area and downwind for a large release
- Notify local health and fire officials and pollution control agencies
- If contaminated runoff enters waterway notify downstream users of potentially contaminated water

Description:

- Silvery-white soft solid
- No odor
- Shipped and stored under oil or nitrogen
- Reacts violently with water producing highly flammable and explosive hydrogen gas
- Highly flammable

Operational Level Training Response:

RELEASE, NO FIRE:

- DO NOT USE WATER DIRECTLY ON MATERIAL - reacts violently with water to form highly flammable hydrogen gas
- Prevent contaminated runoff from entering sewers and waterways if it can be done safely well ahead of the release

FIRE:

- APPROACH FIRE WITH EXTREME CAUTION; consider letting fire burn
- Do not allow water to come in contact with the material; if material is on fire use Class D extinguisher, graphite, soda ash or inert powder to extinguish
- If material is not leaking, cool exposed containers with large quantities of water from unattended equipment or remove containers if it can be done safely
- If cooling streams are ineffective (unvented container distorts, bulges or shows any other signs of expanding), withdraw immediately to a secure location

First Aid:

- Do not put yourself in danger by entering a contaminated area to rescue a victim
- Provide Basic Life Support/CPR as needed
- Decontaminate the victim as follows:
 - ♦ Inhalation - remove the victim to fresh air and give oxygen if available
 - ♦ Skin - remove and isolate contaminated clothing (including shoes) and wash skin with soap and large volumes of water for 15 minutes
 - ♦ Eye - rinse eyes with large volumes of water or saline for 15 minutes
 - ♦ Swallowed - do not make the victim vomit
- Seek medical attention
- For skin burns decontaminate with water and apply a clean dry dressing

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